

■ It's not fair that we started thinking about the *Columbia* crew as heroes since they died on February 1, 2003. While reading their biographies at <http://www.nasa.gov/columbia/crew/index.html>, I was impressed by what they had accomplished even before going on that mission, first for some of them and the last for all. This is where my real inspiration came from: not from their deaths but from their lives and their work! If you read about all the science experiments they had worked on before STS-107 and their contributions, you'll be inspired to work harder and smarter. God bless America and NASA people!

Roumy Vekilov, Lockheed Martin Space Operations/SEAT Hypervelocity Impact Technology Facility Test Team

■ The *Columbia* crew continues to inspire me as being an example of "religious diversity working together as one." Especially now, with all of the turmoil in the Middle East that we find ourselves in, these seven worked together as a team. They bonded and depended on one another for their very lives within the void of space in the tiny enclosure, Space Shuttle *Columbia*. They are my example. Let them be your example of how we should depend on one another within the void in our tiny enclosure, planet Earth.

Todd A Gaspard, Flight Engineer

■ The crew inspired me to keep my mind open to the future of space travel. No one ever said space travel would be easy or safe; we must continue to strive forward for the advancement of all endeavors associated with this. My job in the Crew and Thermal Systems Division is just a small part of the overall picture in preparing astronauts and equipment for space travel, but it is the thousands of people just like me that make it work. Everyone should be inspired by the *Columbia* crew because they would have wanted us to continue to explore space.

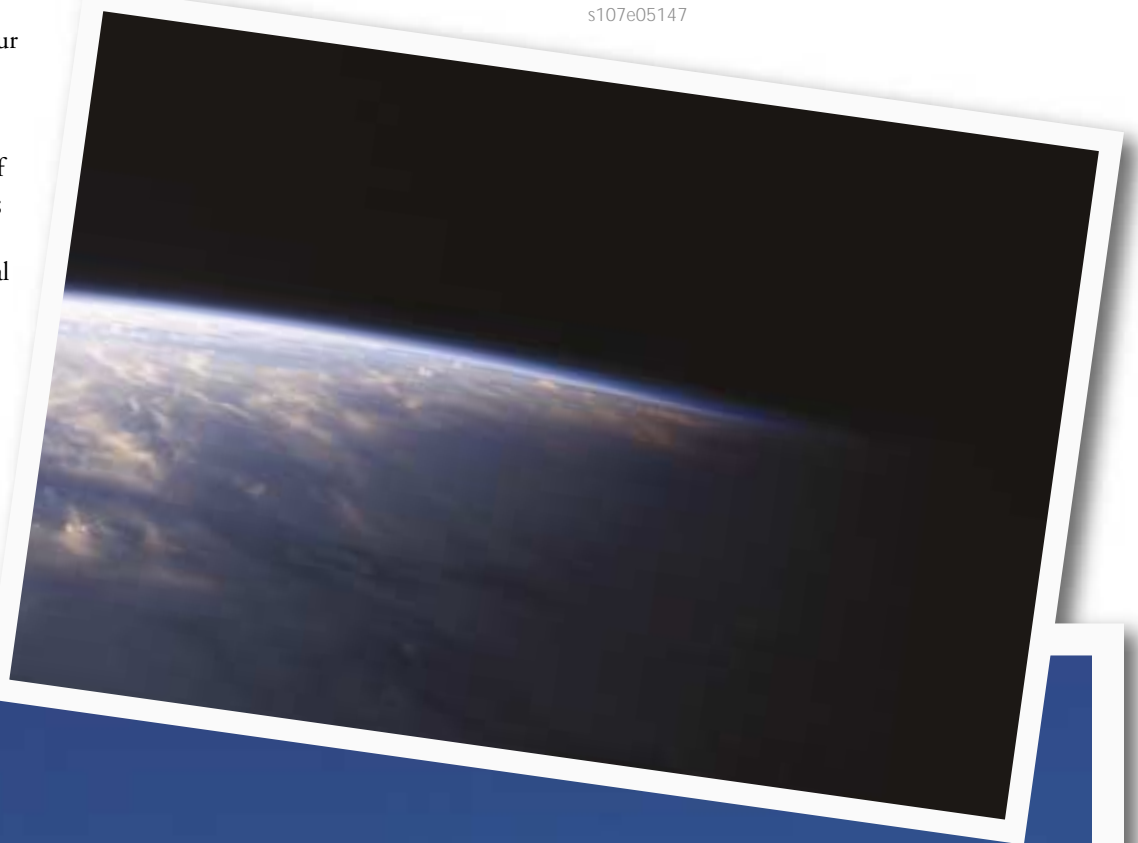
John Neal, Crew and Thermal Systems Division

■ I was impressed by Commander Rick Husband's devotion to his children. I met him and his family through their church; I never had the privilege of working with him at JSC. He participated in daily Bible studies and devotionals with each child, so he videotaped two sets of devotionals in advance, each one 15 days long – the number of days he expected to be away from home. Now his children have a keepsake video of their dad that shows how much he was devoted to them, and to his God. His dedication is something rare in today's world.

Richard Coles, Lockheed Martin

This unique view of earth was taken by one of the crewmembers of STS-107.

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Columbia launches from Kennedy Space Center on January 16, 2003.
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